



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037.

3/1983

PYRMONT/ULTIMO RESIDENT GROUP

The Pyrmont/Ultimo Resident Group is a very active group with a regular publication called the WEST SYDNEY POST. The Group organised a ferry ride around Blackwattle Bay, Darling Harbour and Pyrmont, followed by a picnic at Peacock Point for the Anzac Day Holiday. On April 26, the Pyrmont/Ultimo 'Summit' was held at the Uniting Church in Quarry Street, Ultimo. This meeting was to discuss the future development of the Pyrmont/Ultimo area. Participants were to include representatives from the Residents Group, the Premier's Department, the D.M.R., the Maritime Services Board, the Fishmarkets, the Hayson Group (who are developing the woolstores) - all groups or bodies with an interest or stake in the future of the area. The Group would be a useful ally in any issues such as foreshores, the high level bridge, parks and road traffic. I arranged to swap publications with the Group and will report on any of their activities which have relevance or interest to Glebe residents.

Belinda Weaver.

GLEBE HIGH SCHOOL

The new buildings for Glebe High School are slowly being finished near Blackwattle Bay. It has been suggested that the Society request an 'Open Day' to allow residents of Glebe to look over the new building. Further information will be printed as arrangements are made.



MUSICAL EVENT

A group of local musicians have approached the Glebe Society and the Wentworth Park Trust about staging an open-air concert in Wentworth Park. The Society has supported their application as it is a good opportunity for Glebe residents to hear local musicians, meet each other and walk around Wentworth Park. It is easy to see the Park only as a racetrack rather than an open-air facility for all residents of Glebe. Further details will be given in later issues, but music will include modern folk music, classical music and some singing. It will not be a loud concert, but a musical afternoon that all can enjoy.

HAROLD PARK NEON SIGN

The proposal for the erection of a large neon sign at Harold Park, Glebe was rejected by the Leichhardt Council in March. This is good news for residents who are already suffering from increased light and noise nuisance as a result of the Harold Park 'promotions'. The sign would also have been totally out of character with Glebe. The Society extends its thanks to the aldermen of Leichhardt Council for rejecting such an undesirable development.



APPEAL FOR BULLETINS

The Public Library of the City of Sydney does not have copies of the GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN. In the past, copies have always been sent to the Leichhardt Library. It would be good for the City Library to have a complete set for people who are researching history or who are interested in Glebe. If you have any spare Bulletins, please drop them in to 40 Darling Street, Glebe.



NATIVE ORCHIDS

Many Australians are unaware of the great wealth and variety of orchids indigenous to this country. Usually, people think of orchids as exotic - big, beautiful, fascinating - symbols of wealth and special occasions. Australian orchids are quite the opposite - dainty, modest, quaint - often with a haunting fragrance redolent of the Bush.

They can be divided into two main groups - TERRESTRIALS, which grow in the ground, and EPIPHYTES, which grow in trees or rocks. Perhaps the best-known terrestrials are the Greenhoods and the Blue Sun Orchids. A good example of epiphytic orchid is the Rock Lily or *Dendrobium Speciosum* which is native to N.S.W. Magnificent specimens can be seen growing in the natural sandstone outcrops at Stony Range Reserve, Dee Why.

For those who enjoy growing plants, but have little time or space for gardening, or who are not able enough for the heavier gardening chores, the growing of native orchids makes a delightful hobby.

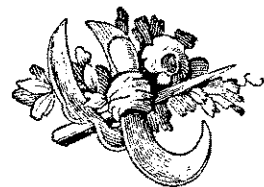
It is advisable to start with the smaller epiphytes which are endemic to the East Coast of N.S.W. and so do not require special conditions such as extra warmth. They can be fastened to small slabs of tree-fern fibre, cork, hardwood or natural branches and hung on walls, trellis or trees. If you have a tree which does not shed its bark, such as frangipani or a fruit-tree, the orchid can be fixed directly to it.

Orchids bought from a nursery are usually established on a slab, but sometimes they are sold in the chain stores in plastic bags or you may receive a bit from a friend. Cover the roots with damp sphagnum moss, then tie firmly to your slab or branch with an old nylon stocking or, if you have paper-bark (as used for lining baskets) apply it over the moss and fix with nylon fishing-line which is strong but unobtrusive, and gives more of a natural appearance. Water regularly until new roots appear and adhere to the backing.

Shade or filtered sunlight is needed so you may have to provide a canopy of shade-cloth as protection against the summer sun.

August-October is the main flowering time, then after a few weeks rest, the new growth starts. You will see the fresh whiteish roots with green tips appear and spread across the backing. Now you should water regularly and apply a water-soluble plant food such as Aquasol every two weeks.

If you are not familiar with native orchids, try to see some of the Orchid Shows this coming season, or visit Stony Range or the Kurin-gai Wildflower Reserve or Native Plant nurseries to see the blooms and growing habits.



Here are a few of my well-trying favourites:

DENROBIUM KINGIANUM or the Pink Rock-lily. Dainty pinky-mauve flowers, 3-6 in a stem; grows readily on sandstone boulder or in a pot with a coarse compost including fir-bank, charcoal or pieces of stone.

D. TETRAGONUM or Spider orchid has green and brown flowers with long pointed petals like a spider.

D. TERETIFOLIUM, the Rat's Tail orchid - or Bridal Veil - the long rounded leaves are like a tail but, if seen growing to perfection, the masses of dainty white flowers on the pendulous plant resemble a veil.

D. GRACILICAULE has upright spikes of small bright yellow and brown flowers. My specimen is now 20 years old, still growing on the original hardwood slab.

D. BECKLERII or Pencil Orchid will readily attach itself to a tree and produce hanging sprays of scattered green and white flowers.

D. GRACILIMUM is a natural hybrid (gracilicaule X speciosum) of upright habit with well-formed creamy-yellow flowers.

Nowadays, there are many successful man-made hybrids. I have had great success with two older crosses - D. 'ELLEN' (kingianum X tetragonum) and D. 'BARDO ROSE', both growing in hanging terracotta pots. 'Bardo Rose', now 14 years old, produces a profusion of pale pink fragrant flowers in graceful drooping sprays every October.

There are well-known orchids, which you may wonder why are not on my list.

SARCOCHILUS FALCATUS, the orange blossom orchid and emblem of the N.S.W. Orchid Society, occurs naturally at higher altitudes in the cool and misty rainforest.

And DENROBIUM BIGGIBUM, the Cooktown Orchid, floral emblem of Queensland, has showy sprays of rosy purple flowers.

As you can imagine, these two need more attention in creating the special conditions for successful growth and flowering. Many more species and hybrids - easy or temperamental, charming or curious - await your discovery, promising endless interest and pleasure.

- Sarah Nelson.

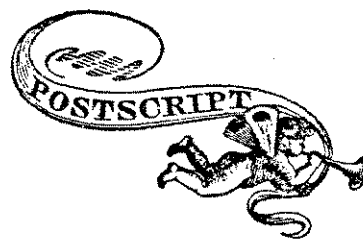


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For your diary



MONDAY 9 MAY 5.30 - 7 PM

Happy Hour at the home of Chris Jones, 242 St. Johns Road, Glebe. The house was built in 1873 and has only recently been restored (1980/81). It is a delightful old house so come along and meet other members of the Society and have a drink in fascinating surroundings. Donation \$ 1.00.

SATURDAY 14 MAY

The Steam Train Ride will take place. Booking forms enclosed. Ron Best is co-ordinating it and any enquiries can be made on 660 1676 (home) or 268 6157 (work). Everyone should come along and make this a great day out.

MONDAY GROUP

The Monday Group had a pleasant relaxed afternoon at the home of Jean McKenzie on 18 April. It was agreed to support the Benevolent Society of N.S.W. by donating craft-work. Several members of the Group are accomplished at crochet and progress was made on a rug of 'granny squares'. Other members sewed the squares together.

MONDAY 16 MAY

The Monday Group will visit the Rocks, including the new Regent Hotel. Catch the 10.22 am 431 bus in Glebe Point Road. New members are always welcome on outings and stay-at-home occasions.

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2.30 PM

Members will visit Sally Nelson at 21 Alexandra Road, Glebe. New members always welcome. Ring Sally on 660 0038.

HANDICRAFTS

On the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm, anyone who would like to bring their spinning wheel, embroidery or even knitting in order to start a group of people doing something creative is welcome. Later it is proposed to have one evening devoted to a demonstration of how to make recycled paper, how to start growing bonsai and anything else any of the group can teach us. Perhaps one of our men would show us how to do simple carpentry, etc. No charge. Come to the side gate in Alexandra Lane, (address is 3 Victoria Road, Glebe) as the workroom is under the verandah. Inquiries ring Bara 660 8120.

YOGA

To start the old blood flowing, on Mondays (except Public Holidays) Bara Marsh will be on her back verandah doing simple yoga exercises. Anybody is welcome to join her. No charge - any suitable loose clothing and a yoga mat or thick rug to lie on are all you will need. If it takes on, we could perhaps later employ a qualified teacher. The address is 3 Victoria Road, Glebe, but come to the side gate in Alexandra Lane and let yourself in. Ring Bara on 660 8120 to arrange or inquire about anything.

